

### REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-26 are pending in the application. In the non-final Office Action of October 6, 2006, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 13-15, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §101.
- B.) Rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-17, and 19-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Crockett* in view of *Chiba*.
- C.) Rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Crockett* in view of *Chiba* and further in view of *Smith*.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and addresses the Examiner's disposition below.

- A.) Rejection of claims 13-15, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §101:

Claims 13-15, 25, and 26 have been canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- B.) Rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-17, and 19-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Crockett* in view of *Chiba*:

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 10, 16, and 23, each as amended, each claim subject matter relating to calculating short-term amplitudes in acoustic signals, at an interval of a preset time length. Sound quality featuring quantities are extracted from the acoustic signals, at an interval of the preset time length. The sound quality featuring quantities quantify the sound quality of the acoustic signals. A candidate domain evaluation determines whether or not the candidate domain is a featuring portion. This evaluation comprises assigning at least a maximum value of the sound quality featuring quantities to a feature vector and uses the feature vector for candidate domain evaluation.

This is clearly unlike *Crockett* in view of *Chiba*, which fails to disclose or suggest evaluating whether a candidate domain is a feature portion by assigning at least a maximum value of a sound quality featuring quantities to a feature vector and using the feature vector for candidate domain evaluation. *Crockett* and *Chiba* each fail discuss or suggest assigning at least a maximum value of a sound quality featuring quantity to a feature vector. Further, as they each fail to disclose this claimed subject matter, they could not disclose or suggest using the claimed

feature vector for candidate domain evaluation.

For at least this reason, *Crockett* in view of *Chiba* fails to disclose or suggest claims 1, 10, 16, and 23.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 19-22, and 24 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 10, 16 or 23 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 10, 16, and 23 are allowable.

Claims 13-15, 25, and 26 have been canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

C.) Rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Crockett* in view of *Chiba* and further in view of *Smith*:

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

Applicants' independent claim 1 is allowable over *Crockett* in view of *Chiba* as discussed above. *Smith* still fails to disclose or suggest subject matter relating to evaluating whether a candidate domain is a feature portion by assigning at least a maximum value of a sound quality featuring quantities to a feature vector and using the feature vector for candidate domain evaluation. Therefore, *Crockett* in view of *Chiba* and further in view of *Smith* still fails to disclose or suggest claim 1.

Claims 7-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-3, 5-12, 16, 17, and 19-24 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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